

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5265

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, 7,, WA, SF

SUBJECT: VORSTER'S STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY

REF:PRETORIA 4657

1. WHEN VORSTER'S STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY APPEARED ON REUTERS WIRES SEPT. 8, MCHENRY CALLED EKSTEEN (CHARGE, SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION) TO ASK FOR TEXT OF VORSTER'S STATEMENT. EKSTEEN HAD NOT SEEN THE STATEMENT BUT CALLED BACK LATER TO PLAY A TRANSCRIPTION OF THE VORSTER SPEECH AS CARRIED BY SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING SERVICE. (TEXT IS REPORTED REFTEL.)

2. MCHENRY ASKED EKSTEEN IF HE KNOW OF THE BASIS OF VORSTER'S STATEMENT THAT COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA ACTION WAS TAKEN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES. EKSTEEN'S  
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RESPONSE WAS THAT IF ANY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WAS TAKEN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES. MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION BUT VORSTER'S CHARGE, WHICH IS TOTALLY UNSUBSTANTIATED AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION THAT THE ACTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WAS TAKEN "WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE FIVE WESTERN COUNTRIES."

NONE OF THE FIVE WAS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND THUS WERE IN NO POSITION TO EITHER APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE ACTIONS OF THE NAMIBIA COUNCIL, NEITHER DID WE HAVE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR ACTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT THAT NAY ACTION ON THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WAS BOUND TO COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION.

3. WITH REGARD TO ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, NONE OF THE FIVE WAS IN A POSITION TO PREVENT ANY UN MEMBER OR ANY UN ORGAN FROM REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

4. IN GENERAL, MCHENRY ADDED, IT WAS UNHELPFUL FOR SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SO CARELESSLY MAKE CHARGES AND THROW ABOUT THREATS IN THE MIDST OF AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA QUESTION. IF IN THE FURUTE THE SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION WISHES TO SEEK ACCURATE INFORMATION SO THAT SUCH UNWARRANTED ACCUSATIONS WERE NOT MADE, WE WERE AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME.

5. COMMENT: EKSTEEN IS CLEARLY EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE VORSTER CHARGE, WHETHER BECAUSE OF HIS OWN INACCURAGE REPORTING, OR BECAUSE OF ITS INTEMPERATE NATURE, IS NOT CLEAR. IN ANY EVENT, WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE FOCUS IS ON THEIR STATEMENT THAT WE HAD ALREADY APPROVED ACTION BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AS OPPOSED TO THEIR EFFORTS TO TRY TO PRE-EMPT WHATEVER POSITION WE MAY TAKE IF AND WHEN A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IS HELD. AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, WE EXPECT NO SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NAMIBIA SO LONG AS NEGOTITIONS SHOW SOME SIGN OF PROGRESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, STATEMENTS SUCH AS THAT BY VORSTER, SOME OF THE STATEMENTS BY JUDGE STEYN (E.G., HIS INTENTION TO GO AHEAD IN NAMIBIA WHATEVER SWAPO THINKS), CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN FAVORITISM TOWARD TURNHALLE, AND ETHNIC TROOPS COULD UNDERMINE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND RESULT IN EARLY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PORG, PDEV, PBOR, WA, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)  
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